

## SHIGERU KAWAI 'EX' CONCERT GRAND, THE CHOICE OF THE TOP PRIZE WINNERS AT THE 13<sup>TH</sup> JOSE ITURBI INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

The first five out of six prizewinners at the 13<sup>th</sup> Jose Iturbi International Piano Competition chose and played the Shigeru Kawai "EX" Concert Grand.

The Competition was held from September 7<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002, in the City of Valencia, Spain. Established in 1981 to pay a tribute to Mr. Jose Iturbi, a pianist and composer, the Competition is held bi-annually

Jose Iturbi was born in Valencia and studied in Spain and France, making his debut as concert pianist in the United States. He was later appointed as conductor of Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and then conductor of Valencia Orchestra, his own hometown. He also demonstrated his talent in the filmmaking in the 40s and co-starred with Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly in the famous musical "Anchors Aweigh" in 1945.

### Results of the 13th Jose Iturbi Int'l Piano Competition:

First Prize	Maria Zisi	Greece	Played Kawai EX
Second	Maria Stembolskaya	Russia	Played Kawai EX
Second	Severin von Eckardstein	Germany	Played Kawai EX
Fourth	Annalisa Londero	Italy	Played Kawai EX
Fifth	Massimiliano Motterle	Italy	Played Kawai EX
Sixth	Alexei Gulenco	Moldavia	Played Other Brand



Second Prize Winner Severin von Eckardstein

There were three official pianos on the stage, Shigeru Kawai, Steinway and Yamaha.

In the first heat 12 out of 29 contestants chose to play Shigeru Kawai EX, 10 out of 20 in the second stage and 7 out of 11 in the semi-final. With 5 out of the 6 playing SK-EX for the finals



Second Prize Winner Maria Stembolskaya

This year's Competition was an outstanding success for both the organizers and Shigeru Kawai EX, making its debut in this competition.

Clemente Pianos of Valencia, who represents the three major brands, is especially happy about the Kawai's success, as they have recently sold approximately 100 Kawai pianos to the City of Valencia, who also organized and financed the Competition.

Our sincere thanks and congratulations go to the Clemente brothers.



First Prize Winner Maria Zisi

Profile of Maria Zisi, the First Prize winner:

Born in 1976 in Greece, she studied locally and then in Germany and Spain. She began participating in various international piano competitions since 1994 and has won top prizes at competitions in Switzerland, Spain and other countries. At present she is actively performing in Europe.